

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. J. B. Adams

FROM : Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
REQUEST FOR LABORATORY DATA

DATE: 10/8/74

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Off. Cong. & Public Affs. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

On referral from the Director's Office, Inspector Herington spoke to James H. Lesar, [REDACTED] S.W., Washington, D. C. 20024, telephone number [REDACTED]. Lesar alleged he was Ray's attorney and was seeking copies of photographs of a bullet fragment removed from the body of Martin Luther King. He stated that his reason for calling the FBI was because he needed this data quickly and believed he could get it from us faster than from other sources. He noted that Ray had pled guilty but that the bullet evidence had been introduced into court and was presently being held by the court.

Lesar was advised that it would be impossible to furnish him copies immediately if at all since we would have to first check our records and he was further advised that if the evidence was not collected by the FBI we probably would not be in a position to furnish him a copy in any event without an appropriate release from the prosecutor or local investigating agency.

Contact with the Laboratory determined that the bullet evidence was submitted to the FBI Laboratory by the Memphis Police Department and our examination was accordingly made for that department.

Accordingly, attached is a letter to Mr. Lesar advising him that we are unable to be of assistance without specific authorization from the Memphis Police Department or the prosecutor. Bufiles indicate that James Lesar, the "present counsel for James Earl Ray" participated in a conference during November, 1973, at Georgetown University sponsored by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations.

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. White
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Farrington
- 1 - Mr. Herington

JH:deh

(8) 62-112697

Enc. 5

REC-59

EX 104

CONTINUED - OVER

1-5967

Memorandum Legal Counsel to Mr. J. B. Adams
RE: JAMES EARL RAY
REQUEST FOR LABORATORY DATA

RECOMMENDATION:

That attached letter be sent to Mr. Lesar.

MBH

PSH

RJH

JD

JAM

62-110102-

October 9, 1974

REC-59

44-38861-5967

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. White
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Farrington
- 1 - Mr. Herington

Mr. James H. Lesar

Washington, D. C. 20024

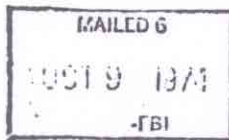
EX 104

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This is to acknowledge your request on October 8, 1974, for photographs of a bullet fragment removed from the body of Dr. Martin Luther King

Although I would like to be of assistance, the evidence in question was submitted to the FBI Laboratory by the Memphis Police Department. Accordingly, we are unable to furnish the photographs you requested in the absence of specific authorization from that department or the prosecutor who handled the case.

Sincerely yours,



C. M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Based on memorandum Legal Counsel to Mr. J. B. Adams dated 10/8/74, captioned "James Earl Ray, Request for Laboratory Data" JH:deh.

JH:deh
(8)

- Sec. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Rec. Mgmt. _____
- Training _____
- Off. of Cong. & Public Affairs _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

OCT 30 1974

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

OCT 23 1974